“The Lottery” Writing Assignment

**It is the morning of June 27th, 2012; it is clear and sunny with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day. Our class is upholding the tradition of our small-town’s lottery drawing.**

**Each family name present in the class will choose a slip. If your slip has the black dot, you will be sacrificed and stoned in order to ensure a good cropping season.**

**May the odds be ever in your favor…**

Now that we have completed our class lottery and we know who is to be sacrificed, you are all going to become that character – embrace the persona of your character living in this small town.

You are going to write a Letter to the Editor of the local newspaper based on what you think about the lottery.

\*Remember, most of you will be writing as onlookers and participants, so you will get to choose how you feel about the lottery. For those who received the notice of being stoned, you must fight for your life in your argument.

**Your Letter to the Editor should:**

* **Have a stated opinion on whether you agree or disagree with the town’s annual lottery superstition**
* **Have at least 4 reasons that support that opinion.**
  + **2 of these reasons will be direct quotes from the story. The other 2 reasons can be made up by your character.**
  + **After writing your letter, you will need to highlight all 4 of your reasons of support in a different color.**
* **The letter should be AT LEAST 2 paragraphs (5-7 sentences each)**
* **Once you have written your letter, re-read your writing. You need to be sure that ALL of your subjects and verbs agree. Also, make sure you have no fragments. Everything must be written in a complete sentence. You will lose points if I find fragments, or subjects and verbs that don’t agree.**

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|  | **Excellent (40-50/50)** | **Average (30-40/50)** | **Below Average (0-30/50)** |
| **What you must include:** | Your Letter to the Editor has a clearly stated opinion and 4 supporting details for that opinion. Two of these reasons of support are direct quotes from the text. Your letter is at least 2 paragraphs and is grammatically correct (based on the guidelines mentioned above). Your letter is fluent and makes sense in terms of Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery” | Your Letter to the Editor has a clearly stated opinion. You are missing 1-2 of the reasons of support, and 2 of them may not be quotes from the text, as required. Your letter is 2 paragraphs, but it doesn’t meet the sentence length requirements. Your letter has errors in grammar (based on the guidelines mentioned above). The letter loosely relates to “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson. | Your Letter to the Editor does not have a clearly stated opinion. You are missing several reasons of support for your opinion. Your letter does not meet the length expectations given, and has several errors in grammar. The letter does not make sense or relate to “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson. |